

1. A method for controlling an oven, the oven including at least one cooking element and at least one control system coupled to the cooking element, the control system including a processor, a memory, and an input interface, said method comprising the steps of:

storing the initial stage cooking recipe in system memory;

10 storing the subsequent stage cooking recipe in system memory; and

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving the initial stage cooking recipe comprises the step of receiving a cooking mode, an oven temperature, and a cooking time.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said step of receiving the initial stage cooking recipe comprises the step of receiving a user entered cooking recipe from the input interface.

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7. A method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said step of receiving at least one subsequent stage cooking recipe comprises the step of recalling a previously programmed user-entered cooking recipe stored in system memory.

5 8. A method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said step of receiving at least one subsequent stage cooking recipe comprises the step of receiving a user entered cooking recipe from the input interface.

10 9. A method for controlling an oven, the oven including at least one cooking element and at least one control system coupled to the cooking element, the control system including a processor, a memory, and an input interface, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one user programmed cooking recipe from the input interface;

storing the cooking recipe in system memory; and

15 recalling the user programmed cooking recipe when requested by the user.

10 10. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of receiving the cooking recipe comprises the step of receiving a cooking mode, an oven temperature, and a cooking time.

20 11. A method in accordance with Claim 10, the control system further including a display, said step of recalling the user programmed recipe comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one stored recipe on the display; and

executing the displayed recipe when selected by a user.

25 12. A method in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising the step of deleting a stored cooking recipe upon user command via the input interface.

13. A control system for an oven including at least one cooking element, said control system comprising:

at least one microprocessor operatively coupled to the at least one cooking element;

at least one memory for storing cooking element command recipes for execution by said microprocessor;

5 at least one display coupled to said microprocessor for displaying operating conditions and oven features; and

at least one user input interface coupled to said microprocessor for user entry of cooking recipes, said microprocessor and said memory configured to execute at least one of a user-programmed multi-stage cooking recipe and a user programmed recalled recipe in response to manipulation of said user input interface.

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14. A control system in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said microprocessor and said memory are configured to execute cooking element command recipes comprising a cooking mode, an oven temperature, and a cooking time.

15 15. A control system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said microprocessor and said memory are configured to execute a multi-stage cooking recipe without intervention by a user, said multi-stage cooking recipe comprising a first cooking mode, a first oven temperature, and a first cooking time followed by at least a second cooking mode, at least a second oven temperature, and at least a second cooking time.

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16. A control system in accordance with Claim 13, the oven further including at least one surface warmer operatively coupled to said microprocessor and operable at a plurality of power levels, said input interface comprising at least a first surface warmer operation input selector and a second surface warmer operation input selector, said microprocessor configured to operate the surface warmer only upon manipulation of said first and at least said second surface warmer input selectors within a pre-determined time.

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17. A control system in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said microprocessor is configured to preheat the at least one surface warmer when selected by a user.

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18. A control system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the oven further includes a thermal limiter input switch coupled to said microprocessor, said microprocessor configured to apply a 100% duty cycle to the at least one surface warmer until the thermal limiter input switch reaches a predetermined temperature.

5 19. A control system in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said microprocessor is configured to display an indicator on said display when a temperature of the thermal limiter exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

10 20. A control system in accordance with Claim 13, said microprocessor further configured to lock-out said interface when a designated interface manipulation sequence is performed by a user.

09609560-063000